

EMERGENCY COMMITTEE FOR AMERICAN TRADE

May 25, 2010

The Honorable Nancy Pelosi
Speaker
U.S. House of Representatives
H-232, U.S. Capitol
Washington, D.C. 20515

The Honorable Harry Reid
Majority Leader
U.S. Senate
S-221, U.S. Capitol
Washington, D.C. 20510

The Honorable John Boehner
Republican Leader
U.S. House of Representatives
H-204, U.S. Capitol
Washington, D.C. 20515

The Honorable Mitch McConnell
Republican Leader
U.S. Senate
S-230, U.S. Capitol
Washington, D.C. 20510

Dear Speaker Pelosi and Leaders Reid, Boehner, and McConnell:

On behalf of the Emergency Committee for American Trade (ECAT), I am writing to express our strong opposition to the current version of H.R. 4213, the American Workers, State, and Business Relief Act of 2010 (known as tax-extendors legislation), that includes provisions which will undermine U.S. competitiveness. We urge your leadership in ensuring that this legislation is not considered by either the House or Senate in its current form.

ECAT is an association of the chief executives of leading U.S. business enterprises with global operations. Today, ECAT's members represent all the principal sectors of the U.S. economy – agriculture, finance, high technology, manufacturing, merchandising, processing, publishing and services. The combined exports of ECAT companies run into the tens of billions of dollars. The jobs they provide for American men and women – including the jobs accounted for by suppliers, dealers and subcontractors – are located in every state and cover skills of all levels. ECAT companies have been successful in the United States in significant part through their economic engagement in the international economy. That international engagement helps to grow U.S. exports and investments in U.S. research and development, and sustains and generates American jobs.

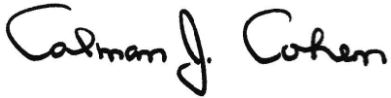
As currently drafted, H.R. 4213 will undermine U.S. commercial engagement overseas and put U.S. enterprises and their workers at an even greater competitive disadvantage. Through its \$14 billion in new and permanent tax increases, including some that are retroactive, H.R. 4213 will make major, but piecemeal, changes to the international provisions of the U.S. tax code in ways that will make U.S. companies less – not more – competitive in the world's marketplace.

Given that 95 percent of the world's consumers live outside the United States and nearly 87 percent of world economic growth over the next five years will take place outside of the United States, the U.S. Congress needs to be working to advance the competitive position of U.S. enterprises and their workers

internationally in order to create the economic opportunities America needs to restore strong and sustained economic growth and build new opportunities and new jobs for the decades to come.

H.R. 4213 is a major step in the wrong direction. We urge your leadership to ensure that it is not considered or approved in its current form.

Respectfully,

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "Calman J. Cohen". The signature is written in a cursive, flowing style.

Calman J. Cohen
President